RECEIVED FEC MAIL OPERATIONS CENTER

August 3, 2005

Federal Election Commission 999 E Street Northwest Washington, D.C. 20463 7085 AUG 18 A 10: 03

FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
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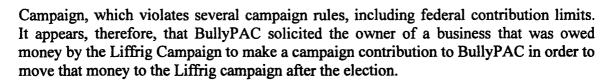
Dear Commissioners:

In reviewing certain Federal Election Commission filings made for the 2004 North Dakota Senate campaign, I believe there are multiple violations contained in the filings of both the Senate campaign of Mike Liffrig, the Republican endorsed candidate from North Dakota, and a Political Action Committee, named "BullyPAC", headed by Ed Shafer.

I am writing to request that the Commission investigate these apparent violations, which are as follows:

- 1. The Liffrig Senate campaign purchased billboards from a company called Newman Sign Company (a/k/a Newman Outdoor Advertising) and reported payments to that company on their campaign reports that are far short of what was necessary to pay for the number of billboards that were put up in North Dakota by the campaign. Paying below the usual and normal charge for billboards would constitute an illegal corporate in-kind contribution, a violation of federal campaign finance law.
- 2. Newman signs acknowledged to the North Dakota Democratic Party in a telephone call that they are still owed a "substantial amount" of money from the Liffrig Campaign for the billboards that were displayed during the campaign, but this debt is not disclosed on any report filed by the Liffrig Senate campaign as required by law. Thus, if an outstanding debt exists, and the Liffrig Senate campaign failed to disclose it, this also is a serious violation of federal campaign finance law. In the event that the bill remains unpaid, it will, in effect, become an illegal corporate contribution to the Liffrig Campaign.
- 3. Bully PAC made a \$6,000 disbursement to Newman Signs on December 15, designating it as a partial payment for billboards for the Liffrig Campaign. This payment was an excessive contribution from BullyPAC, to the Liffrig Campaign. BullyPAC is not a "qualified" PAC and therefore by law could contribute no more than \$2,000 to the Liffrig Campaign at the time.

In addition, the payment by BullyPAC was made shortly after Harold Newman, the owner of Newman Signs, made a \$5,000 contribution to BullyPac. BullyPAC collected just \$9,400 during the entire campaign, with \$5,000 of it contributed by Harold Newman just days after the election. Mr. Newman's contribution allowed BullyPAC to make the payment to Newman Signs for the Liffrig Campaign. Mr. Newman had already contributed the maximum amount allowed by law to the Liffrig Campaign, so his contribution to BullyPAC on its face appears to have been "earmarked" for the Liffrig



This set of facts suggests that the Liffrig Campaign, as well as the BullyPAC, have likely violated a number of campaign finance laws. These are serious issues, and I urge you to investigate them and take appropriate actions. A formal Complaint detailing the various apparent violations accompanies this letter.

Sincerely,

Rence Prenning

Rence Pfenning

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Ms. Renee Pfenning	0FF 2005 A
v.) MUR 5618 555
Michael George Liffrig, Republican Candidate for United States Senate from North Dakota	A H
Liffrig for Senate, Ken Krumm, Treasurer Bully PAC, Inc., Alyson Dietrich, Treasurer) , 00 , r , r

COMPLAINT

- 1. This Complaint is filed by the undersigned Complainant with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") pursuant to 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(1) and 11 C.F.R. § 111.4. The complaint is sworn to and signed by the Complainant, in the presence of a notary public, and is notarized. See below.
- 2. Complainant's address is Bismarck, North Dakota 58503.
- 3. The Complaint is filed against Michael George Liffrig. Mr. Liffrig was a candidate in the 2004 general election for the United States Senate from North Dakota. The Complaint is also filed against Mr. Liffrig's principal campaign committee, Liffrig for Senate, Ken Krumm, Treasurer. FEC ID S4ND00053. According to FEC records, Liffrig for Senate's current address is

 Mandan, North Dakota 58554 or P.O. Box 1433, Bismarck, North Dakota, 58502.

The Complaint is also filed against Bully PAC Inc. ("Bully PAC"), Alyson Dietrich, Treasurer. FEC ID C0038715. According to FEC records, Bully PAC is a non-

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party non-qualified committee with its current address listed as 551 Airport Road, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504.

- 4. Complainant alleges violations of 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a, 441b, 441f, and 434(b)(8) by Michael George Liffrig, Liffrig for Senate, and Bully PAC. More specifically, upon information and belief, Complainant alleges the following:
- (i) That Liffrig for Senate paid less than the usual and normal charge for outdoor advertising, resulting in illegal in-kind corporate contributions from Newman Signs, Inc. in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b, and/or that Liffrig for Senate unlawfully failed to disclose outstanding debts to Newman Signs in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 434(b)(8);
- (ii) That, through Bully PAC, Harold Newman (an executive/owner of Newman Signs) made excessive contributions in the name of another by earmarking a \$5,000 contribution to BullyPAC to pay Newman Signs for Liffrig for Senate's outstanding debt to the company in violation of 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a and 441f; and
- (iii) That Bully PAC made and Liffrig for Senate accepted unlawful excessive contributions in violation of 2 U.S.C. §§ 441a.

A more detailed discussion of each allegation is provided below.

ILLEGAL IN-KIND CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

5. According to documents filed with the FEC, Liffrig for Senate paid Newman Signs a total of \$26,616 in connection with the 2004 general election campaign for outdoor advertising signs (Exhibit 1). Liffrig for Senate's reports to the FEC do not reflect any outstanding debt to Newman Signs. Complainant on information and belief understands that Liffrig for Senate purchased more than 30 billboards across the State of

¹ The mailing address of Newman Signs (also known as Newman Outdoor Advertising) is 1606 6th Avenue, SW, Jamestown, North Dakota 58402 according to a web-site maintained by the company.

North Dakota from Newman Signs during the two-month period leading up to the 2004 general election. This indicates an average cost of \$444 per outdoor sign, per month. This is an unusually low figure. For comparison, the rate charged and paid by Dorgan for Senate (Mr. Liffrig's opponent in the 2004 general election campaign) averaged \$1,250.00 per sign, per month. The extreme discrepancy suggests that Liffrig for Senate was charged below the usual and normal charge by Newman Signs for outdoor advertising, resulting in a corporate in-kind contribution in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 441b, and/or that Liffrig for Senate has failed to disclose its outstanding debt to Newman Signs in violation of 2 U.S.C. § 434(b) (8).

ILLEGAL EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

According to reports filed with the FEC, Harold Newman, an owner/executive of Newman Signs, made a \$2,000 contribution to Liffrig for Senate for the general election campaign on or about November 5, 2004 - the maximum amount an individual could lawfully contribute for the general election campaign. *See* Liffrig for Senate, 2004 Post-General Election Report, Schedule A, p.18 of 51 (Exhibit 2). On or about November 16, 2004 (after the general election), Mr. Newman made a \$5,000 contribution to Bully PAC., a federal committee that is not associated with or authorized by any candidate or political party. *See* Bully PAC, Inc. 2004 Post-General Election Report, Schedule A, p.6 of 6 (Exhibit 3).

Shortly thereafter, Bully PAC made a \$6,000 disbursement to Newman Signs. More specifically, Bully PAC reported a December 15, 2004 payment to Newman Signs and describes it as "Given to Candidate: Liffrig, Michael, Jr." See Bully PAC Inc. 2004 Year-End Report, Schedule B, p.7 of 7 (Exhibit 4).

Mr. Newman's \$5,000 contribution to Bully PAC appears actually to have been an earmarked contribution to Liffrig for Senate. First, Bully PAC raised a total of just \$9,400 in 2004. Thus, without Mr. Newman's \$5,000 contribution, Bully PAC would not have been able to make its payment to Newman Signs.² Importantly, as previously explained, Liffrig for Senate appears to have owed Newman Signs a substantial amount for outdoor advertising expenses incurred throughout the general election, and the Company was pressing Liffrig for Senate for immediate payment. Mr. Newman would have been aware that he already had contributed the maximum amount allowed by law to Liffrig for Senate and, therefore, Bully PAC appears to have arranged to circumvent Mr. Newman's contribution limitation in order to subsidize Liffrig for Senate's outstanding debt to Newman Signs. By making an earmarked contribution through Bully PAC, Mr. Newman, Bully PAC, Liffrig for Senate and Mr. Liffrig violated the federal contribution limitation (2 U.S.C. § 441a) and a federal prohibition against making a contribution in the name of another (2 U.S.C. § 441f).

ACCEPTANCE OF EXCESSIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

In response to a notice of inquiry from the Federal Election Commission, Bully PAC recently admitted to making an excessive contribution in-kind to Liffrig for Senate and has asked Liffrig for Senate for a \$4,000 refund (Bully PAC is <u>not</u> a qualified committee and therefore may contribute no more than \$2,000 per candidate, per election). See Letter from Michael Hart stock, FEC, to Alyson Dietrich, Bully PAC (March 9,

² At the time Newman made his contribution to Bully PAC (Nov. 16, 2004), Bully PAC it had just a few hundred dollars in cash-on-hand. Several days later, North Dakota Governor John Hoeven and his wife each contributed \$2,000 to Bully PAC. But even with these funds, without Newman's contribution, Bully PAC would not have been able to make the \$6,000 payment to Newman Signs for Liffrig for Senate. Given that Mr. Newman must have known that Liffrig for Senate owed Newman Signs a substantial sum, it is difficult not to infer that he was making a contribution to Bully PAC with the understanding it would be used to pay-off part of Liffrig for Senate's debt to Newman Signs

2005) (Exhibit 5); and Electronic communications from Bully PAC to M.Hartstock, FEC (April 5, 2005) and Michael Liffrig, Liffrig for Senate (April 5, 2005) (available from FEC web-site containing images of financial reports filed by Bully PAC) (Exhibit 6). To date, however, no refund has been reported made by Liffrig for Senate and no outstanding debt or obligation is listed by Liffrig for Senate to Bully PAC (or to Newman Signs for that matter).

Moreover, even if Liffrig for Senate refunds Bully PAC for the excessive portion of its contribution, an excessive contribution still remains, because the entire amount of the in-kind contribution by Bully PAC to Liffrig for Senate was an earmarked contribution and therefore should be reflected as a contribution from Mr. Newman as well as Bully PAC. As Mr. Newman has already contributed the maximum lawful amount to Liffrig for Senate, he has made and Liffrig for Senate has accepted an excessive contribution.

COMPLAINANT:

8-3-05

Renee Pfenning

Date

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 3rd day of July 2005.

(NOTARY PUBLIC)

SHARON G. AEGORYK Notary Public, STATE OF NORTH DANOTA My Commission Expires AUG. 31, 2005

Sharon Gregoryk





SCHEDULE B (FEC Form 3)

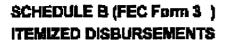
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SCHEDULE A (FEC Form 3)

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FEC Schedule B (Form 3X) Rev 02/2003	



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION WASHINGTON D.C. 19463

March 9, 2005

Dietrich, Alyson Ms, Treasurer Bully PAC Inc. 551 Airport Road Bismatek, ND 58504

Response Due Date: April 8, 2005

RQ-2

Identification Number: C00381715

Reference:

2004 Year-End Report (11/23/04 - 12/31/04)

Dear Ms. Dietrich:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign fluances. An adequate response must be received at the Commission by the response date noted above. An itemization of the information needed follows:

-Schedule B supporting Line 23 of your report descloses one or more contributions to a candidate(s) for the 2004 General election; however, the funds were disbursed after the election date(s) (see attached). Please note that contributions may not be designated for an election which has aircady occurred unless the funds are to be used to reduce a candidate committee's debts incurred during that election campaign.

If any apparently impermissible contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you should amend your original report with clarifying information. If the contribution(s) in question should have been designated for debt retirement, you should amend your report to indicate "debt retirement," along with the year of election.

If you have made an impermissible contribution, you must request a refund or provide a written authorization for a redesignation of the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR §110.2(b) within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt.

If the foregoing conditions for redesignations were not met within 60 days of the treasurer's receipt, your committee must obtain a refund.

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Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of the refund or redesignation request sem to the recipient committee(s). In addition, any refunds should be disclosed on Schedule A supporting Line 16 of the report covering the period during which they are received. Any redesignations should be disclosed as memoentries on Schedule B supporting Line 21 of the report covering the period during which the redesignation is made. 11 CFR §110.1(b)

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding this impormissible activity, your prompt action in obtaining a refund and/or redesignating the contribution(s) will be taken into consideration.

Unlike previous election cycles, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses received on or before this date will be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered. Pailure to provide an adequate response by this date may result in an audit of the committee. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action.

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1398.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Hartsock

Campaign Finance Analyst Reports Analysis Division

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Mr. Michael Liffrig	12/15/04	\$6,000	G2004	ND - 11/02/04
Recipient Name	Date	Amount	Election	State - Date
				Election



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04/05/2005 20:44

Dear FEC

ETEXT ATTACHMENT

Per your request BULLYI PAC has amended its year-end report to reflect the contribution to Michael Liffrig was for debt reduction

In addition, a letter was sent requesting refund of the excess amount paid to his campaign over BULLY! PAC's allowable amount

The letter requesting the reimbursement is replicated below

April 5, 2005

Michael Liffing

Mandan, ND 58554

Dear Mr Liffing

It has come to our attention that BULLY! PAC has contributed in excess of its allowable amount to your campaign. As required by the Federal Election Commission, we are requesting reimbursement in the amount of \$4,000 of the \$6,000 BULLY! PAC contributed to your campaign. This is necessary to comply with all of the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

Please remit the reimbursement to
BULLYI PAC

551 Airport Road

Thank you and we are sorry for any inconvenience Sincerely,

Alyson Dietrich Tressure BULLY! PAC